

THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT,

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

BALTIMORE ASSOCIATION

FOR

Improving the Condition of the Poor.

BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER, 1852.

BALTIMORE:

PRINTED AT "THE PRINTING OFFICE,"

SUN IRON-BUILDING.

1852.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ANNUAL MEETING,

HELD IN THE

School Room adjoining Light Street Church,

OCTOBER 25th, 1852.

The Meeting was called to order by Wm. George Baker, Esq., and, on motion, Maj. Joshua Dryden was called to the chair; and, upon motion of Thos. Wilson, Esq., Dr. A. Hartman was appointed Secretary.

The minutes of the last Board Meeting, and of the Annual Meeting of 1851, were severally read.

The Annual Report of the Managers was read by the General Agent, adopted, and ordered to be printed.

The Association then proceeded to the election of Officers and Managers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the election of the list found below.

Wm. Geo. Baker offered the following resolutions, viz :—

Resolved, That the Managers of each Ward appoint a Ward Committee, to consist of not less than — nor more than — persons, whose duty it shall be to receive applications for relief; to make inquiry into necessitous cases, and report to the Agent of the District, relief to be afforded solely by the Agent, upon his own examination, or an order from a Manager.

Resolved, That the members of the several Ward Committees be requested to attend the meeting of the Board of Managers, participate in its deliberations, but not to vote.

Resolved, That the Agent of each District be required to call on the members of each Ward Committee, as frequently as practicable, to ascertain what applications for relief have been made.

The resolutions were discussed at length, pending which the Association adjourned.

List of Officers and Managers.

THOMAS WILSON, PRESIDENT.

GEORGE BROWN,

JOHN R. KELSO,

CAPT. JAMES FRAZIER,

STERLING THOMAS,

CHARLES HOWARD,

JOHN H. T. JEROME,

JOHN SMITH HOLLINS,

CHARLES Z. LUCAS,

MAJ. JOSHUA DRYDEN,

ISAAC TYSON, JR.,

JESSE HUNT, TREASURER.

S. GUTEAU, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Z. D. BRASHEARS, RECORDING SECRETARY.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

COMPLIMENTARY MANAGERS.

JOHN WILSON,

OTIS SPEAR,

JAMES H. CARTER,

DR. A. HARTMAN,

J. C. ADAMS.

MANAGERS.

1ST WARD.

William Colton,
William Espy,
John W. Randolph.

2D WARD.

John Hughes,
Edwin Thomas,
Benj. Thomas.

3D WARD.

John W. McCoy,
Wm. P. Spencer,
John W. Hall.

4TH WARD.

Dr. J. C. Cockey,
Geo. W. Herring,
John F. Kerner.

5TH WARD.

Jas. O. McCormick,
Sam'l Rankin,
William Johnson.

6TH WARD.

J. J. Stewart,
B. Appleby,
David E. Thomas.

7TH WARD.

John R. Blake,
Jacob Daly, Jr.
Francis Davidson.

8TH WARD.

R. S. Bowie,
Wm. H. H. Turner,
Durus Carter.

9TH WARD.

Henry C. Smith,
John B. Moody,
Richard T. Bird.

10TH WARD.

Isaiah Mankin,
Robt. Q. Taylor,
Wm. F. Carey.

11TH WARD.

A. B. Gordon,
William Chester,
Wm. A. Wisong.

12TH WARD.

B. C. Rhodes,
E. Otis Hinekly,
Joseph Barlow.

13TH WARD.

F. T. King,
William Bridges,
Wm. H. Grafton.

14TH WARD.

Wm. Woodward,
Jas. Harvey,
John Green, Jr.

15TH WARD.

Henry Bell,
Sam'l Bratt,
Edward Heffner.

16TH WARD.

E. Yates Reese,
A. P. Sharp,
John Sheekles.

17TH WARD.

John S. Brown,
Wm. H. Harman,
Israel Riggins.

18TH WARD.

Mauldin Perine,
Dr. J. H. Curley,
Capt. R. M. Hill.

19TH WARD.

Wm. Geo. Baker,
Isaac Mules,
John Feast.

20TH WARD.

Charles Towson,
Wm. A. Disney,
Dr. J. W. C. O'Neal.

AGENTS.

1ST DISTRICT.—JAMES HAGERTY,
Fawn Street, 4 doors East of Exeter.

2D DISTRICT.—JOHN H. HALL,
Biddle Street, 2 doors East of Harford Avenue.

3D DISTRICT.—GEORGE HOLTZMAN,
No. 137 Franklin Street.

4TH DISTRICT.—JOHN WOODMAN,
No. 49 Conway Street.

Z. D. BRASHEARS, SECRETARY, CENTRAL OFFICE.

ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Board of Managers, in presenting this, their third Annual Report, would acknowledge their obligations to the patrons of the Association, by whose very liberal pecuniary aid and co-operation it has been sustained, and its benefits extended.

The results of the operations of the past year have fully proven the positions assumed in the first annual report, viz : that this great city has within it the elements sufficient for the relief of all virtuous poverty. The past year has been one of unprecedented severity, producing an unusually large amount of suffering and wretchedness among the poor. But it was found that the increase in the means for their relief was commensurate with the demand.

It will be seen, by a comparison of the statistics accompanying this report with those of former reports, that the number of families relieved has been much larger than any former year. This, however, is not to be taken as an evidence that pauperism is on the increase. It will be recollected that during the greater part of the last winter, from the severity of the weather, and the entire close of navigation, cutting off all commercial intercourse by water, business of all kinds was almost entirely suspended for months, throwing out of employment a large majority of our mechanics and laboring men. To such an extent was this the case, that it was found in many instances, that those who heretofore had been contributors to this charity, were compelled to become applicants for relief.

And again we were compelled by the necessity of the case, to extend relief to many, who, it was never contemplated in the organization of this Association, would become the subjects of its charities. The vicious poor had to be kept from perishing. Our almshouse was filled to repletion, and was unable to afford an asylum to many who must have perished but for the care of our visitors, and it became necessary, under such circumstances, to distribute fuel and food to this class, to keep them from freezing and starving.

In the language of some of the ward Managers, in reply to the General Agent, when he expressed a fear that there was not a sufficient discrimination in the bestowal of relief, "we had to feed and warm them, or we had to bury them." So great was the suffering and wretchedness in some of the suburban wards of the city, that the Managers and Visitors were compelled to go from house to house with their carts, and distribute a few sticks of wood at a time, for the purpose of keeping the inmates from perishing with cold. This class of cases was closely watched, and so soon as the pressing necessity ceased, all relief was withheld.

That there has been some complaint, on account of the delay that existed in some instances in the delivery of fuel to the poor, is not to be wondered at. The Association commenced its operations for the year with a stock of wood amounting to upwards of 600 cords, which, calculating from data of former years, it was supposed would last until the first of March, but which was exhausted by the 10th of January, just at the time when navigation was entirely closed, and our supplies cut off by water. In this dilemma all the railroads leading to the city were called into requisition, and although they gave us all the facilities in their power, and every exertion was made on the part of the Agents of the Association, we were unable to meet the demand as promptly as could have been desired. Sixteen hundred and twenty-eight cords and a half of wood have been distributed during the year, being nearly one thousand cords more than any previous year.

We would in this place acknowledge our obligations to the several Railroad Companies for the facilities extended by them in the purchase of wood, and its delivery over their several roads.

The Board, ever desirous of carrying out the design of the Association, and keeping in view more the permanent improvement of the condition of the poor than their temporary relief, have watched closely the operations of the Association; and from the experience of the past, have thought that the permanent benefits expected to be derived from its organization have not been realized, and that by some modification in its plan of operations, it might be improved and made more conducive to the objects desired.

It was feared that the proper discrimination was not at all times made, and that the effects intended to be produced failed for want of the proper visitations during the season when relief was not needed.

At the stated meeting in March, the subject was brought before the board, and after being fully discussed, resulted in the appointment of a committee of ten members, who at a subsequent meeting, held for that purpose in May, submitted the following report:

THE COMMITTEE, to whom was referred the following Resolution, namely:—“*Resolved*, That a Committee of Ten be appointed to take into consideration the operations of the Association, under the present organization, and if, in their judgment, any modifications of the Rules and Regulations of the Association be advisable, report the same to an adjourned meeting in May next,” respectfully Report:—

That they have given the subject due consideration; and in reviewing the operations of the association for the past three winters, whilst they bear cheerful testimony to

The amount of labor bestowed;

The amount of relief afforded;

The devoted attention of many of the Visitors, Managers and Officers of the Association;

The many wholesome reforms introduced over the former mode of administering charity;

All meriting the commendation of the Association and the public.

Yet they are constrained to believe, that the primary, the great object of the formation of the Association, “the improvement of the condition of the poor,” has but partially been accomplished; certainly not to the extent hoped for, or desired.

They also fear that this desirable improvement cannot take place, to any great extent, under the present organization.

The system of voluntary visitation—beautiful in theory, is found defective in practice, because of the great numbers, frequent changes, and want of uniformity, and its necessary tendency to periodical and impulsive action, commencing with winter privations, and ending soon after they are past.

To remedy these defects, your Committee unite in recommending that the city be divided into four districts, as nearly equal as may be; that an agent, properly qualified, be appointed for each district, whose duty it shall be to devote his whole time, the year round, summer as well as winter, to the interest and business of the Association; to make himself thoroughly acquainted with all

the poor of his district ; their residence, occupation, character and habits, and to keep a book of record of the same ; to administer relief, advice, admonition, encouragement, and to do and perform all the functions heretofore devolving on visitors.

The said agents, in periods of active winter duty, to be aided and assisted by the Managers of each district.

They also recommend the continued establishment of a central office, with a Secretary ; his duties to be defined in the By-Laws.

In a work of such extended charity as to include the whole city, no plan of operations can be perfect, and your Committee are aware that two objections may be suggested to the one now proposed ; viz : the supposed inability of one agent to visit and properly attend to the wants of one fourth of the city ; and secondly, the cost of four pay agents, in lieu of one, as heretofore.

Your committee have considered these matters, and on advising together, have come to the conclusion that one individual, qualified for, and devoted to the work, giving his attention to it the year round, aided and assisted by his Committee of Managers, will do more good, both to the poor, and to society at large, and at a less aggregate cost, than one hundred visitors acting without any well regulated system, and for a portion of the year only.

And as to the cost, your Committee believe they can obtain qualified agents at annual salaries of about \$300 each. This will not greatly exceed the amount now paid ; but were it double, they still think that a corresponding benefit would result to the poor—and to society at large a pecuniary saving.

To the relief afforded by the agents in winter, would succeed summer visits of kindness and sympathy. And who so fit and proper to administer advice, encouragement and admonition, as he who has administered relief in the hour of need ?

Our admirable system of free schools has done much to ameliorate the condition of the poor. But there is a class of the poor—the miserably intemperate, degraded poor, whose children are strangers to this blessing. They are not sent to school, because every consideration of the kind is swallowed up by the selfish and slavish habit of intoxication. Faculties that might be reared up into usefulness, are suffered to run into rank weeds and ruin, because a parent must first indulge in degrading gratifications. These are prolific sources of pauperism, vice and crime ; and to reach *them*, is one of the objects of our Association.

These unfortunate children demand our care and protection, and every one rescued through the instrumentality of our agents, and placed beyond the contaminating influences of such evil habits, would surely be equivalent to the cost.

Your Committee are not prepared to report fully on two other resolutions referred to them. They have prepared a revised Constitution and By-Laws to conform to this Report, all of which is respectfully submitted.

THOMAS WILSON,
ISAIAH MANKIN,
JOSHUA DRYDEN,
J. C. COCKEY,
FRANCIS T. KING,
J. H. CARTER.

To meet the requirements of the Constitution, after the report was read it was referred to a special meeting of the Board, which was held on the 28th of June, when, after a full discussion, it was adopted with but one dissenting voice. At this meeting there was a Committee of five appointed, consisting of Messrs. F. T. King, Sterling Thomas, John S. Brown, John Sheekles and A. Hartman, to divide the city into four visitorial districts, receive applications, and recommend suitable persons for Agents and Recording Secretary, and report at a meeting held on the 3d of September, which reported as follows, which report was unanimously adopted. The Committee appointed to select four Agents and a Secretary for the Association, and also to divide the city into four districts, report:

That they have unanimously agreed to propose James Hagerty for District No. 1, composed of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 7th wards.

John H. Hall for District No. 2, composed of the 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, and 10th wards.

George Holtzman for District No. 3, composed of the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 19th and 20th wards.

John Woodman for District No. 4, composed of the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th wards.

Z. D. Brashears as Secretary and Clerk.

The compensation of the Agents and Secretary to be \$312 per annum, each.

FRANCIS T. KING, *Chairman of Committee.*

The Agents under the new organization entered upon their duties on the first day of October, after having received their instruction from the President of the Association. Since that time they have been zealously devoting their time and services to the interests of the Association, in making themselves thoroughly acquainted with their duties, in searching out the localities of the poor, endeavoring to ascertain their character, habits of life and necessities, and ministering to their relief.

We would acknowledge the receipt of numerous donations from persons residing out of the city, among which were several from citizens residing temporarily in Europe.

The Association has on hand between five and six hundred cords of wood with which to commence the winter operations.

The following table, taken from the reports of the visitors, will give some idea of the vast amount of labor done by them.

Tabular Statement of relief granted during the several months of the year, taken from visitors' reports.

| | Families relieved. | Persons in Families. | Visits. |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------|
| November..... | 281..... | 751..... | 323 |
| December..... | 1,541..... | 5,578..... | 1,978 |
| January..... | 2,117..... | 6,256..... | 2,313 |
| February..... | 2,009..... | 6,131..... | 2,207 |
| March..... | 1,497..... | 5,099..... | 1,673 |
| April..... | 463..... | 1,219..... | 479 |
| May..... | 197..... | 601..... | 241 |
| June..... | 49..... | 187..... | 63 |
| July..... | 57..... | 182..... | 79 |
| August..... | 35..... | 127..... | 43 |
| September..... | 27..... | 107..... | 38 |

As in the above table there are unavoidable repetitions, from the fact of the same families having been relieved in different months, the annexed table is given to show what has been the real aggregate of families relieved and visits made. But this, while it shows the number of families and persons in families, falls far short of the number of visits made, as the visitors did not report to the office the visits made to such families as they deemed unworthy of relief.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Number of Families relieved..... | 3,716 |
| Number of Persons in Families..... | 12,603 |
| Number of Visits made..... | 9,427 |

A Tabular Statement, showing the number of Families, and the number in Families relieved, and the number of visits made in each of the several wards.

| Ward. | No. of Families. | Persons in Family. | Visits. |
|---------|------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 1..... | 214..... | 752..... | 507 |
| 2..... | 181..... | 617..... | 462 |
| 3..... | 276..... | 861..... | 615 |
| 4..... | 147..... | 533..... | 327 |
| 5..... | 126..... | 501..... | 261 |
| 6..... | 157..... | 573..... | 391 |
| 7..... | 223..... | 783..... | 461 |
| 8..... | 245..... | 813..... | 515 |
| 9..... | 231..... | 715..... | 568 |
| 10..... | 69..... | 231..... | 163 |
| 11..... | 182..... | 685..... | 417 |
| 12..... | 167..... | 553..... | 397 |
| 13..... | 83..... | 269..... | 193 |
| 14..... | 139..... | 497..... | 363 |
| 15..... | 235..... | 807..... | 617 |
| 16..... | 227..... | 721..... | 564 |
| 17..... | 205..... | 669..... | 543 |
| 18..... | 213..... | 749..... | 597 |
| 19..... | 187..... | 633..... | 413 |
| 20..... | 209..... | 641..... | 567 |

A Table showing the amount appropriated in Wood and Money to each ward, and the amount collected in the respective wards.

| Wards | In Wood. | Cash. | Total Appro. | Am't Collected. |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1st..... | \$550 00..... | \$249 25..... | \$799 25..... | \$110 08 |
| 2d..... | 480 00..... | 135 00..... | 615 00..... | 216 23 |
| 3d..... | 560 00..... | 225 50..... | 785 50..... | 200 41 |
| 4th..... | 400 00..... | 110 00..... | 510 00..... | 421 00 |
| 5th..... | 375 00..... | 85 00..... | 460 00..... | 248 65 |
| 6th..... | 375 00..... | 95 00..... | 470 00..... | 187 34 |
| 7th..... | 460 00..... | 156 00..... | 616 00..... | 50 00 |
| 8th..... | 600 00..... | 250 00..... | 850 00..... | 159 00 |
| 9th..... | 427 50..... | 207 00..... | 634 50..... | 849 24 |
| 10th..... | 187 50..... | 70 00..... | 257 50..... | 1,262 10 |
| 11th..... | 462 50..... | 205 00..... | 667 50..... | 1,063 60 |
| 12th..... | 282 50..... | 85 00..... | 367 50..... | 496 08 |
| 13th..... | 257 50..... | 116 55..... | 374 05..... | 1,054 56 |
| 14th..... | 255 00..... | 165 00..... | 420 00..... | 1,099 65 |
| 15th..... | 397 50..... | 81 28..... | 478 78..... | 356 52 |
| 16th..... | 412 50..... | 135 00..... | 547 50..... | 286 84 |
| 17th..... | 415 00..... | 267 00..... | 682 00..... | 109 00 |
| 18th..... | 437 50..... | 291 00..... | 728 50..... | 453 52 |
| 19th..... | 405 00..... | 168 00..... | 573 00..... | 265 50 |
| 20th..... | 355 00..... | 131 75..... | 486 75..... | 134 58 |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | \$8,145 00 | \$3,178 33 | \$11,323 33 | \$9,023 90 |

This does not include donations from the City, Societies, Concerts and private individuals.

The Board of Managers, in closing this report, would again appeal to the public in aiding them in breaking up street begging, by in all cases refusing to give aid to unknown applicants for charity; but to furnish themselves with tickets of reference, and thereby refer such cases to our agents for investigation. Unless the Association have the co-operation of the public in this respect, they despair of being able to destroy this pernicious and offensive practice of public mendicity, for while that class of persons find it profitable to beg from door to door, or that they can support themselves in this way easier than by seeking employment, they will continue to pursue it to the annoyance of the community. The amount annually worse than thrown away upon these objects, because it leads to habits of idleness and vice, would more than relieve all the virtuous poverty in our city. Therefore, while we do not desire that the channels of private charity be dried up, in such cases as may be known to be worthy, we would ask that you give to our collectors what you feel you can spare for such purposes, and make our agents the medium of your general charities; we ask this because, from our experience of several years, we believe that in this way, the charities of the benevolent not only reach the proper objects, but much of harm is prevented thereby.

Trusting in an intelligent benevolence, we enter upon the duties of another year, with an increased confidence, that it will be liberally and generally sustained by the charitable.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements of the Baltimore Association for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor, for the year ending October 18th, 1852.

| Dr. | | Cr. | |
|---------|---|---------|--|
| 1851-2. | Balance in Treasury Oct. 27, 1851, - \$202 16 | 1851-2. | Disbursements from Oct. 18, '52. 12,904 95 |
| | Receipts per Contributions from Oct. | | Balance in Treasury Oct. 18, '52. 830 69 |
| | 27, 1851, to Oct. 18, '52, - 13,533 48 | | <u>\$13,735 64</u> |
| | <u>\$13,735 64</u> | | |

BALTIMORE, October 20th, 1852.

The Committee appointed to examine the accounts of Jesse Hunt, Treasurer, have had the vouchers before them, and find the same correct.

JOHN R. KELSO, } Auditing Committee.
WILLIAM BRIDGES.

Printed Forms used by the Association.

Ticket of Reference for the use of Members.

Mr.

Agent,

No.

St.

is requested to visit

at No.

Member

Baltimore Association for
Improving the Condition of the Poor.

Agent's Order.

Mr.

No.

St.

Please let

have the value of

in

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Agent,

Baltimore Association for
Improving the Condition of the Poor.

Monthly Report.

Subjoined is a condensed plan of a Sectional Monthly Return. The original occupies a large page of foolscap, with appropriate columns, fifteen in number, which enable Agents to give the following particulars of every family relieved. 1st. Name, residence, place of birth, sex, color, occupation, time in the city, number in family, and number of visits. 2d. Statements of character—as being temperate or intemperate. 3d. Unavoidable causes of indigence, such as sickness, infirmity, or old age, with space for marginal remarks.

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ ⑪ ⑫ ⑬ ⑭ ⑮ ⑯ ⑰ ⑱ ⑲ ⑳ ㉑ ㉒ ㉓ ㉔ ㉕ ㉖ ㉗ ㉘ ㉙ ㉚ ㉛ ㉜ ㉝ ㉞ ㉟ ㊱ ㊲ ㊳ ㊴ ㊵ ㊶ ㊷ ㊸ ㊹ ㊺ ㊻ ㊼ ㊽ ㊾ ㊿
 一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 十 十一 十二 十三 十四 十五 十六 十七 十八 十九 二十 二十一 二十二 二十三 二十四 二十五 二十六 二十七 二十八 二十九 三十 三十一 三十二 三十三 三十四 三十五 三十六 三十七 三十八 三十九 四十 四十一 四十二 四十三 四十四 四十五 四十六 四十七 四十八 四十九 五十 五十一 五十二 五十三 五十四 五十五 五十六 五十七 五十八 五十九 六十 六十一 六十二 六十三 六十四 六十五 六十六 六十七 六十八 六十九 七十 七十一 七十二 七十三 七十四 七十五 七十六 七十七 七十八 七十九 八十 八十一 八十二 八十三 八十四 八十五 八十六 八十七 八十八 八十九 九十 九十一 九十二 九十三 九十四 九十五 九十六 九十七 九十八 九十九 一百

Obgent's Monthly Report of District No.

Dated

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✎ .1 mark with a pen thus, in the columns, will point out the class to which the person named belongs. If

| FAMILIES RELIEVED. Always give the full Name and <i>mole</i> Head of family, if living. | RESIDENCE OF FAMILIES. Which must be reported every month. | Foreigners. | Natives | Total Persons | Males. | Females. | No. in Family. | No. of Visits. | KIND OF OCCUPA- TION. | Temperature. | Intermittent. | Sickness. | Misfortune. | Old Age. | Cts. | AMOUNT EX- PENDED. | REMARKS. |
|---|--|-------------|---------|---------------|--------|----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|----------|------|--------------------------|----------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Signed, Agent.

CIRCULAR.

OFFICE OF THE BALTIMORE ASSOCIATION FOR
IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR. }
BALTIMORE, *October 14th*, 1852. }

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| MESSRS. JAMES FAIRBANKS, | First District. | } AGENTS. |
| JOHN H. HALL, | Second " | |
| GEORGE HOLTZMAN, | Third " | |
| JOHN WOODMAN, | Fourth " | |

GENTLEMEN :

You have now entered on the discharge of the duties of your several appointments as Visitors and Agents of the "Baltimore Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor." In the several interviews I have had with you, I have, on behalf of the Association, endeavored to explain to you fully the nature and character of the many important interests confided to your care. We have freely interchanged views. We have agreed on a uniform mode of action; form of accounts and books; register of all the poor, and many other details unnecessary now to repeat.

Here I might leave the matter in your hands, subject to such instructions as the Association from time to time, in their regular monthly meetings, may deem it advisable to give. But I would fail in my duty to the Association, to you and to myself, did I not most earnestly crave of you, *ever* to bear in mind that the great and primary object of the Association is to "Improve the Condition of the Poor." This necessarily carries with it the relief of the poor. But in affording relief, we should endeavor so to administer it, as best to serve the higher purpose of improving the condition, moral and physical, of the recipient.

The indiscriminate bestowal of alms is absolutely injurious to a community, and creates instead of lessening pauperism. It is not our purpose to do this. On the contrary, we wish to lessen pauperism by creating, in the minds of those who would eat the bread of idleness and beggary, more of self-exertion; more of the pride of self-reliance; and on all proper occasions we wish you so to practice.

It is our wish and intention to lessen, if not entirely eradicate the pest of street and door begging. It is an evil practice. Children of tender ages are forced into this practice by indolent if not vicious parents, and in turn become paupers themselves. You are particularly requested to notice and investigate all cases of this character, and administer such admonition as the case may require. If persisted in, more stringent measures must be resorted to. Children thus exposed to evil influences must be cared for, and they may be placed in some of the charitable institutions of the city, or provided with homes in suitable families, where their proper culture will be attended to. The civil authorities of our city grant the authority, and will afford the necessary aid to carry these measures out.

Soliciting your attention to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association, and particularly to Article 2d of the By-Laws, defining more fully your several duties, I am, on behalf of the Association,

Respectfully Yours,

THOS. WILSON,

President of the Baltimore Association, &c.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This institution shall be called "THE BALTIMORE ASSOCIATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE POOR."

ARTICLE II.

Its object and design is to discourage indiscriminate alms-giving, street-begging, pauperism and idleness; and to elevate the moral and physical condition of the indigent, and, so far as compatible with these objects, the relief of their necessities.

ARTICLE III.

Every person who becomes an annual subscriber to the funds of the Society, shall be a member thereof for the current year.

ARTICLE IV.

The permanent officers of the Association shall consist of a President, ten Vice Presidents, Treasurer, a Recording and Corresponding Secretary, four Agents, and a Board of Managers, to consist of sixty members, nine of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE V.

All the Officers and Managers provided for in Article IV, shall be annually elected by ballot, except the four Agents, who shall be appointed by the Board of Managers, and shall hold their offices on such terms as may be provided for in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI.

The President and Secretaries shall perform such duties as usually pertain to their respective offices, and as may be specially provided for in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII.

The Treasurer shall give such security for the faithful performance of the trust reposed in him, as the Board of Managers may demand and approve. He shall take in charge all funds belonging to the Association, keep an account of all receipts and expenditures, and pay all duly authorized drafts. At the annual meeting he shall render a particular and

correct statement of all his receipts and disbursements to the Association. He shall also exhibit a summary report to the Board of Managers at their Stated Meetings, whenever called upon for that purpose.

ARTICLE VIII.

It shall be the duty of the Agents to devote themselves with diligence and fidelity to the interests and affairs of the Association, and perform such duties as may be provided for in the By-Laws. They shall be *ex-officio* members of the Board.

ARTICLE IX.

The Board of Managers shall have exclusive control of the funds of the Association, and shall apply them in such manner as they shall deem best calculated to accomplish its benevolent purposes. They shall have authority to make all necessary By-Laws, and from time to time to alter or amend them; to fill all vacancies, appoint all committees, and generally to adopt all such measures as the objects of the institution may require.

Its stated meetings shall be held on the third Mondays of October, November, December, January, February, March, April and July; and the annual meeting shall be convened on the fourth Monday of October, in each year, when the Board shall submit a full report of its proceedings.

ARTICLE X.

Special meetings of the Association may be called by the Secretary at the request of the President, or on receiving a requisition signed by five members. Two days' notice must be given of the time of meeting.

ARTICLE XI.

An office shall be opened in an eligible situation, for the purpose of concentrating and diffusing all information pertaining to the Society's operations and objects, and for the transaction of its general business.

ARTICLE XII.

It shall be the duty of every member of this Association to endeavor, in all suitable ways, to give practical effect to its principles; especially to discountenance indiscriminate alms-giving and street-begging; to provide themselves with tickets of reference; and instead of giving aid to unknown applicants, whose cases they cannot themselves investigate, to refer such applications to the Agent of the section in which the applicants reside, in order that they may be properly inquired into, and, if deserving of aid, relieved.

ARTICLE XIII.

This Constitution shall not be altered, except at a special meeting called for that purpose on one month's previous notice, or at an annual meeting. The alteration in either case to be made by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present.

BY-LAWS.

1. The four Agents provided for in the Constitution shall be appointed by the Board of Managers for one year, at such salary as may be agreed upon.

2. Their duties shall be to confine their labors exclusively to the particular section assigned them, so that no individual shall receive relief except in the section where he is known, and to which he belongs. The Agents shall carefully investigate all cases referred to them before granting relief; ascertain the condition, habits of life, and means of subsistence of the applicants; and extend to all such kind services, counsel and assistance as a discriminating and judicious regard for their present and permanent welfare requires. And in cases of sickness, it will be their duty to inquire whether there is any medical or other attendance needed; whether relief is afforded by any religious or charitable society; to provide themselves with information respecting the nearest dispensary, and in all cases, when practicable, to refer applicants for aid to appropriate existing societies. When no other assistance is provided or available, they shall draw from the resources of this Association—not money, which is never allowed to be given, except with the consent of the District Committee, but such articles of food, fuel, clothing and similar supplies, as the necessities of the case require. In all cases of want, coming to the knowledge of the Agents, they will be expected to perform the same duties, although no application has been made. It shall be their duty, moreover, to render a report of their labors, and also an account of their disbursements, at the stated monthly meetings. No Agent neglecting these duties will be entitled to draw on the funds of the Association. They are also required to pay particular attention to the children of im-provident and intemperate parents, and orphans, and aid in obtaining them situations in families or asylums, reporting all such cases in their Monthly Reports.

3. The Recording Secretary shall be appointed for one year, at such salary as may be agreed on. He shall keep the central office, the records and books of the Association, receive the reports of the Agents and read them to each stated meeting; collate and prepare matter for publication in the annual reports, and keep the minutes of each meeting. He shall devote his whole time to the interests and business of the Association, and keep regular office hours.

4. The Managers of each ward shall attend to taking up collections, appointing collectors for their own ward, and seeing that the duty shall be attended to. They may be assisted in this duty by the Agents and Secretary. All collections to be paid over to the Treasurer.

5. The Managers residing in each of the four districts, will constitute a standing committee, to aid and assist the agents of their respective districts, particularly in periods of active winter duty, in visiting families, and affording counsel and advice in the purchase of such supplies as may be authorized by the Board of Managers.

6. All appropriations shall be made by the Board of Managers, stipulating a given amount for a given period of time, to each of the four districts, and no district shall be at liberty to exceed the amount so appropriated, without becoming responsible for the excess. Particular and special cases may be provided for by the Board.

7. Whenever an appropriation of the funds of the Association is made, the Recording Secretary shall furnish the Treasurer with a copy of the resolution, directing such appropriation, and the amount to each district can only be drawn by the Agent and one of the Committee of that district. Funds not appropriated to any district can only be drawn by the draft of the President, countersigned by one of the Vice Presidents, first being authorized by the Board.

8. The Managers may at any time make such alterations in these By-Laws as they may deem necessary: provided they be not contrary to the Constitution, and that such alteration be submitted to the Board, at least one meeting before it be acted on, and that it shall not be made except at a meeting wherein twenty-five Managers shall be present.

BROWN'S BUILDINGS, }
BALTIMORE, *May 5th*, 1852. }

At a meeting of the Association, held this evening, the following resolution was adopted. viz:

Resolved, That the question of the adoption of the new Constitution, as appointed by the Committee on re-organization, be referred to a special meeting, to be held on the second Monday in June next, and that the report and Constitution be printed, and a copy furnished to each Officer, Manager and Visitor of the Association, with a notification of the time and place at which the adjourned meeting will be held.

CHAS. Z. LUCAS, *Secretary*.